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USSR-Lebanon: Brezhnev Warning to the US

The Soviets today publicized a statement from Soviet President Brezhnev to President Reagan warning that if the US sends troops to Lebanon the USSR "would build its policy with due consideration." Brezhnev, according to TASS, called on the US to end the fighting in Lebanon and said he "hoped" Washington would restrain Israel. [] 25X1

Comment: This is the most authoritative Soviet statement on the situation in Lebanon to date but like the TASS and Soviet government statements issued last month, is vague on what steps the USSR might take in response to the insertion of US troops into Lebanon. Moscow's immediate objective appears to be to complicate US decision-making, assert Soviet concern over developments in Lebanon and place the responsibility for any further Israeli military action on the US. [] 25X1

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